

1 CORINTHIANS: LESSON 33

Chapter 12: Spiritual Gifts Operating in the Body of Christ

26 January 2018

In First Corinthians 12:12-31, we are given an illustration of how spiritual gifts are supposed to operate within the Church. The human body is the perfect example to show that there are no “insignificant” members. We each have a specific function in the body, and we must operate according to the purpose God gave us.

Vs 12 The human body is presented as an illustration of the Body of Jesus Christ. You only have one body, but you have many members (arms, legs, ears, eyes, etc.).

Vs 13 There is one Holy Spirit, which all “brethren” (vs 1) have in common. The Holy Spirit baptized each believer into the Body of Jesus Christ the moment they believed and received Jesus Christ.

Vs 14 The Body of Christ is composed of “many” members.

15-16 After you receive Christ, you may deny that you’re a member of the body, but it won’t change the fact that you are. —When a member gets envious of another member, they might deny being what they are and claim to be what they are not. When they find out that doesn’t work, they might quit and say, “I’m not of the body.”

Vs 17 The “**whole body**” can’t be composed of parts that are exactly the same. It can’t function properly unless it has different parts doing what they were designed to do. It is unbiblical to claim that every Christian must have the same role and utilize the same gifts.

Vs 18 Notice that God is the one who decides what you will do in the body, according to His will (vs 11). You will not be happy trying to be a part of the body that God didn’t design you to be.

19-21 Every member of the body is essential. No member of the body can say, “I’m not important.” You may go unnoticed as long as you’re doing what you’re supposed to be doing, but if something happens that harms or impairs your abilities, it affects the whole body.

Vs 22 The parts of the body that seem to get the attention rely upon other parts of the body to enable them to do what they do. Your hands get a lot of attention, but without elbows, the effectiveness of your hands is severely reduced.

Vs 23 We might think a particular member is less honorable (vs 23). If God gave you that role in the body, then it doesn’t make sense to say that it’s not important.

We ought to spend more time with the “uncomely parts;” people who could benefit from our help and our guidance. It will help the whole body to function properly.

- Vs 24** “Our comely parts have no need.” You may not get the attention you used to receive, but that’s because you don’t need it anymore. The “part which lacked” needs more attention.
- Vs 25** To avoid divisions in the body, treat the other members the way you want them to treat you.
- Vs 26** Don’t be self-centered. Consider the other members and what they’re going through. Feel what they feel and be a part of their sorrows and their joys.
- Vs 27** You are the Body of Christ if you are brethren (vs 1) who have been baptized into the Body by the Holy Spirit (vs 13). You don’t need to get your name on a local church membership roll to be a member of the Body of Christ.
- Vs 28** For the third time in this chapter, we’re told that God decides your role in the body. “God hath set some...” We ought to be thankful to have ANY part in the Lord’s work.

Compare Ephesians 4:4-16

with 1 Corinthians 12:28-31

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Trinity is in view: One Spirit (vs 4), One Lord (vs 5), One God and Father (vs 6). 2. Who gets spiritual gifts? Every one of us (believers) had grace measured out to them (vs 7). 3. Not all receive the same gifts (vs 11). 4. What are the gifts for? To benefit other members of the body (vs 12). To help perfect the saints (vs 13). 5. Every part is necessary for the body to edify itself (vs 16). 6. The body must edify itself in love (vs 16). 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Trinity is in view: The same Spirit (vs 4), the same Lord (vs 5), the same God (vs 6). 2. Who gets spiritual gifts? Every man (in the church) (vs 7). 3. Not all receive the same gifts (vss 8, 9, 10). 4. What are the gifts for? To profit all the body (vs 7). 5. Every part is needed for the body to function properly (vs 21). 6. Charity (chapter 13) is “a more excellent way” (vs 31). Spiritual gifts don’t do any good if you don’t exercise them in love.
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